
**First virtual meeting of the Informal Drafting Group
on a possible ICCM5 High-level Declaration**
Tuesday, 24 November 2020, from 13:00 – 15:00 CET

**INFORMAL DRAFTING GROUP ON A POSSIBLE ICCM5 HIGH-LEVEL
DECLARATION ON THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS AND WASTE
BEYOND 2020**

**Co-facilitators summary of the 1st Virtual Meeting: Open discussion of process and
compiled input from stakeholders, guidance on draft elements**

1) Opening remarks by ICCM5 President Gertrud Sahler

The President voiced her sincere appreciation for the volume and high quality of stakeholder submissions on the elements for a High-level Declaration (HLD). She re-iterated that she believed that a HLD would help pave the way for an enhanced cooperation between all international organisations, sectors and institutions. This will contribute to the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 in a coherent manner whilst also achieving the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. A higher political profile to harness and mobilise financial resources will be crucial, and whilst the COVID-19 pandemic might threaten to draw attention and resources away from our work in the short term, she pointed out that chemicals have been crucial to the response to the pandemic. This is in addition to also inflicting greater susceptibility in some cases to the virus. Her preference would be for a short document that reflected commitment by all sectors and stakeholders.

2) Key points to underpin discussions

The co-facilitators reminded the VWG that the text in the compilation document (IP4/2) was not well-developed text. Rather, it represented some general ideas or views that had been touched on briefly by Thematic Group C at IP-3 and included in the compilation text by the Bureau as a starting point.

Three key points were highlighted to facilitate the work of the group:

1. The discussions will be informal and will not replace formal negotiations which will take place at IP4 and ICCM5.
2. The group has been composed by a process of nominations with the intention of keeping it small to allow for efficient working but be representative enough to ensure that a broad range of views. The desire is to be consultative and transparent and representatives were asked to feedback and consult regularly with their constituencies.
3. The aim of the group is to develop elements that help forming a draft High-level Declaration for negotiations at IP4 and ICCM5.

3) Organizational matters

The timeline of meetings and written feedback by stakeholders up to February 2021 was outlined as below:



4) Key considerations for the High-level Declaration

There was broad agreement by the group to build on the Dubai Declaration and that, where feasible, draw on agreed language prioritizing the most relevant. The aim would be to have a short, concise, clear, pragmatic document and be forward looking and ambitious, recognizing that there would have to be further discussion on the level of ambition. We should consider the benefits of chemicals both in terms of the environment, society but also human health and that it would be important to raise the political profile of our work. There was agreement on trying to reduce duplication and have a strong demonstration on committing to the outcome of the intersessional processes whilst considering what we may mean by “going beyond” the outcome of our work. The group agreed on the necessity for all relevant sectors and stakeholders including vulnerable groups to be engaged and that we should strive to enhance the coherence and co-ordination of our activities. We recognized that we should explore the best means to raise the political profile including whether we needed to have reference to UNGA in the declaration.

5) Structure for the High-level Declaration

There was broad agreement on a structure for the HLD as below:

1. Introductory/overarching statement

Multi-stakeholder, multi-sector, relation to 2030 Agenda and SDGs, reaffirming commitment to SMCW;

2. Advances and gaps

Recognizing progress and need for scaled up, coordinated action; reference GCO-II; business as usual is not an option; recognizing differential impacts and a strengthened Science-Policy Interface

3. Commitments/Actions whilst recognizing differential capacities and impacts

Political profile, by a range of sectors, collective vision, gender differences and vulnerable groups

4. Strengthened collaboration and contribution

Broad ownership of all areas including IGOs, Health, Labour, Retail etc should be reinforced

6) Elements

A short survey indicated the level of agreement on elements. The elements have been prioritised below although all will still be discussed further:

ELEMENT	Level of Agreement
Sustainable chemistry / green chemistry	GREEN
Partnerships	GREEN
Scientific evidence	GREEN
Multisectoral and multi-stakeholder	GREEN
Strengthened co-operation and collaboration	GREEN
Links to other environmental challenges (climate change and biodiversity)	GREEN
Capacity building	Amber/Green
Life-cycle and circular economy	Amber/Green
Role of industry / private sector	Amber/Green
Precautionary principle	Amber/Green
Strategic Objectives and targets	Amber/Green
Gender	Amber/Green
Financing	Amber/Green
Covid-19	Amber
Human rights	Amber
Plastics	Amber

Additional elements mentioned by participants:

- Strengthening science-policy interface;
 - Vulnerable populations, (unborn) children, CBI confidential business information and benefits of chemicals;
 - Importance of health to managing chemicals and waste well;
 - The urgency to see substantial progress in the work with Issues of Concern (IoCs);
 - Fundamental rights at work; and
 - Urgent action.
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